

**REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. Claims 1-10, 12 and 13 are pending. Claim 1 is independent. Claims 1-10 are amended. Claim 11 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §101**

Claims 2, 6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, for being indefinite. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 2 and 6 are amended to delete the narrow range or limitation which fell within the broad range or limitation. The narrow range or limitation is now recited in added dependent claims 12 and 13, respectively. Moreover, claim 11 is canceled, thereby rendering the rejections of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §101 moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, and the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §101 be withdrawn.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)/ Allowable Subject Matter**

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 98/34600. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 3-5 and 7-10 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 6 are also allowable since these claims are amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, as discussed above.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the instant application, claim 11 is canceled, thereby rendering the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) moot.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be withdrawn. Since the remaining claims depend from allowable independent claim 1, they are also allowable for at least their dependency on claim 1, as well as for the additional limitations provided thereby. Thus, all claims are allowable.

### **CONCLUSION**

Since the remaining patent cited by the Examiner has not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

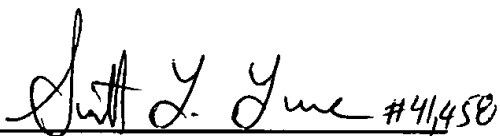
If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, she is invited to telephone Sam Bhattacharya (Reg. No. 48,107) at (703) 205-8000.

Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) and 1.17 for a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The Extension of Time Fee in the amount of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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